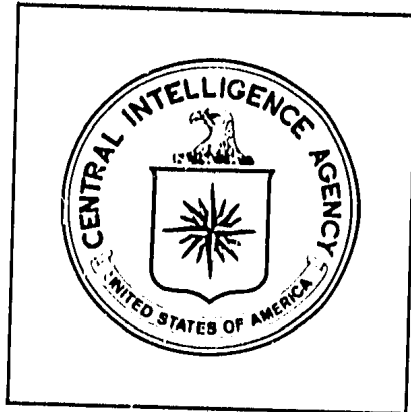


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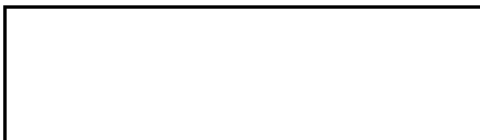
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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

State Department review completed

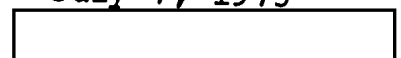
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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Brezhnev Hints at Retirement

Brezhnev seems to be reviewing his future political plans, and there are signs that he may be at least flirting with the idea of retirement. Twice in his conversations last week with the delegation of US Senators, Brezhnev alluded to such a possibility.

At one point, according to a Reuter's report, he joked about "giving up" his job because it was too worrisome to put up with arguments with "fellows like Jackson."

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Later, when stressing the responsibility of world leaders to work toward securing peace for future generations, Brezhnev as saying "No one is eternal and life being what it is there comes a time when a person must leave, whether for retirement or because of illness, but when one is at the helm one must do what one can for the future." The sensitivity of his remarks was underscored by the fact that the Soviet interpreter did not translate the reference to illness.

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Any thought Brezhnev may have of stepping down is clearly in terms of a long-term possibility, not something he is contemplating for the near future. In recent conversations with Western officials and correspondents, Brezhnev has gone out of his way to stress how busy his schedule is for the rest of the year. He told the US Senators that he planned to meet with Kissinger following the latter's talks with Gromyko, and he noted that he was looking forward to seeing President Ford in Helsinki and again later in Washington.

Earlier last month Brezhnev also talked to reporters about his travel plans and went on to discuss preparations for the party congress. "There

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is little time," he said. "There are many visits, but the congress still has to be prepared for, so I am faced with an immense amount of work."

In looking beyond the party congress next February, however, it would not be surprising if Brezhnev were toying with the idea of retiring. [REDACTED]

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Brezhnev does not seem to be under any pressure from his colleagues to retire. If [REDACTED] his policies are moderately successful during the rest of the year, thoughts of retirement are likely to evaporate. [REDACTED]

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Romania Facilitates Emigration of Jews

Romania is continuing to try to show that its emigration policy, particularly as applied to Jews, warrants approval of US legislation granting Bucharest most-favored-nation status.

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Israeli Foreign Minister Allon recently told the US ambassador in Tel Aviv that President Ceausescu has promised that any Jew wishing to be reunited with his family in Israel is free to leave. Allon reportedly pressed Romanian officials during his visit to Bucharest five weeks ago for a two-year "open season" on Jewish emigration.

Allon said that Romanian estimates of 30,000 Jews wanting to depart are too low, but admitted that Israeli estimates, which exceed 50,000, are too high. He seemed pleased that 199 Romanian Jews arrived in Israel in June, and said that between 250 and 300 are expected to arrive in July. During the first quarter of this year, about 150 Jews were allowed to leave Romania each month.

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Continuing Impasse on Documents for
European Communist Conference

Another "sharp division" of opinion marked last week's meeting in East Berlin of the working group that is drafting documents for the conference of European Communist parties, a Yugoslav diplomat reports.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mojsov privately told the US ambassador in Belgrade on July 2 that the meeting had left the Soviet, East German, and Danish parties at odds with the Yugoslav, Italian, French, Romanian, and Spanish contingents. The five independent parties adamantly oppose any wording in the proposed documents that could later be used to bind individual parties to joint actions under Soviet direction. If the French party, as Mojsov claims, has joined those opposing the Soviets, the tide is running against Moscow.

Aleksandr Grlickov, the Yugoslav party's top expert on inter-party affairs, also has referred indirectly to differences in Berlin. In a talk with the ambassador on July 3, Grlickov stressed that although no compromises have developed, all sides--including the Soviets--want to reconcile differences. He said that the Soviets continue to push "unacceptable issues" mainly as a bargaining tactic in the protracted preparations, which he said could drag on through the end of the year. Grlickov's comments suggest that the Yugoslavs believe Moscow will make further compromises on the subject of binding documents to gain broader attendance at a European meeting.

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Belgrade's media have been silent thus far on the results in East Berlin, suggesting that the Yugoslavs do not at this time want to make a public issue over the differences. Since the Berlin session, however, Belgrade has criticized both the Czechoslovaks and the Soviets for pushing their program in other forums. The Yugoslavs have taken particular aim at prominent Soviet party officials Mikhail Suslov and Boris Ponomarev for using the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Comintern's Seventh Congress to attack the Chinese and to call for "monolithic" unity of all Communist parties.

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Soviet Union - Singapore Joint Fishing Venture

The Soviet Union and Singapore established a \$12-million joint commercial fishing venture last month. Participation in the new company, Marisco, will allow the Soviets to expand operations in the western Pacific and eastern Indian Ocean where Soviet fishing has been minimal.

Marisco will supply fish and other seafood products to Singapore and other markets. Singapore also will serve as a bunkering and ship-repair facility for Soviet fishing ships. The Soviets approached Indonesia and the Philippines to set up facilities for ship repair, but Manila rebuffed the offer, and Indonesia's decision is pending.

Joint venture schemes have been of major importance in the expansion of Soviet fishing operations; at least seven have been established to date. Moscow not only acquires use of much-needed port facilities and the right to fish in coastal waters of other countries, but also has a ready market for its fish products. Moreover, the USSR will be able to commit a part of its oversupply of fishing support ships to the joint-venture fleet as an element of its contribution to the new company.

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